

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-21 and 23-71 and 73-79 remain pending. Claims 22 and 72 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Editorial corrections have been made in the claims in response to the objection and indefiniteness rejection. The revisions do not materially reduce the scope of the claimed subject matter. With respect to the issues raised concerning R₁ and X and Y in some of the dependent claims, the claims now clearly identify the functional groups as being a further component of the R₁, X or Y group. See page 6 of the specification.

The rejections of claims 22 and 72 are rendered moot by the cancellation of the claims. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejections. Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned in the event any issues remain that prevent the allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

By



Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM:gmr

Date: November 19, 2003